Self-preservation and self-expansion are the two instincts deeply rooted in man's nature. Indians are no exception to this. India's history is indeed a history of continuous warfare, with some periods of short-lived peace, since pre-historic days. As arms and weapons are prerequisites for any kind of war and conquest, so also the stories of war, weapons, organisation of armies and forts are connected with the history of mankind.

To know the military activities of India and to gather the ideas about the development of military skill and knowledge, its gradual progress, the evolution of arms and weapons, their uses, advantages and disadvantages, the ever changing techniques of wars and other related topics on military science, one should go either to the public libraries or to the museums of war materials if there is any. In a developing country like India, with its high percentage of illiteracy, the contribution of a museum to the general mass education is more than a library could contribute. The library is used by a small section of educated persons and a limited number of research scholars; but museums can be used and enjoyed by all — illiterates, less-educated, highly educated and the research scholars.
Moreover, library contains literal description or expression of human knowledge and man's approach to nature and spirit but it is the museum which stores and exhibits actual documents of human expression and nature. Books could interpret what is stored in the museum. Hence better the museum better would be the interpretation contained in the books. Well organised military museum having comprehensive collections certainly contributes greatly to the development of studies in military history, science and technology.

It is only very recently, the role played by museums in the life of the community and the use of their collections for educational purposes have taken real importance. In many developed countries the emphasis on the educational aspect of museum activities has progressed considerably, while India is still lagging behind. Modern outlook of developments are reflected through logical and attractive exhibitions. Visitors of all ages and walks of life in large number have come to understand their visits to museums as an important experience. Researches are made to enable the public to view and study the museum collections, to observe, understand and appreciate the cultural and technological achievements of mankind through ages.

Though in India, the art and science of war are being taught to the professional soldiers and academicians for quite sometime in different regimental centres and military schools, but no public museum of war materials
either at national or at regional level has yet been established.

This absence of a museum of war materials has contributed to the general mass of India indifference about the modern techniques and trends in national security and defence. The subject 'Military Studies' has failed to acquire its due recognition in the centres of learning. It will not be wrong to state here that even to-day a large section of teaching community thinks that military science embraces only some physical training, drill, weapon training etc. and the subject lacks in required depth, extension and importance. Probably for this reason most of the universities in India have not yet included 'Military Studies' as a subject for study in degree and post-graduate level. So long, army and its organisation were considered to be a matter of secrecy and to be maintained without any contact with the rest of the community. The rulers preferred privacy in respect of operation of either defence or aggression. They wrongly considered everything concerned with army organisation as tactics and strategy and not to be disclosed. The public should not be encouraged to know about anything what is military. Now-a-days it is debated that a large part of military science and technology concern many other academic disciplines like history, geography, physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, medicine, law and what not. Scholars and experts belonging to these fields should come forward to contribute to the field of Military Studies.
Museum movement has gathered considerable momentum in recent years, and current trend in museums all over the world has laid great emphasis on its role as a vital and most successful weapon for mass education and scholarly study, but in India, it is still in the stage of infancy. Except a few, in India, war materials are collected, stored and preserved carefully in the galleries of archaeological and anthropological sections of the museums.

To popularise the subject 'Military Studies' through quick and easy appreciation of various war materials by the common visitors, to fulfil its purpose and to reach the desired goal, regional and national museums of war materials are immediate need of the country.

'Tangible' is the key word to a knowledge of things. 'Seeing is believing'. This dictum is applicable to study not only military science but any subject of arts or science. A museum is the best place to see objects and to touch them if required for study.

For the purpose of education, the selection of war materials is a problem requiring much thought and imagination on the part of the museum educators. Firstly, the exhibits must be of interest to the different classes of visitors and of a nature to illustrate things which they hear or read about. Secondly, the objects must be reasonably safe to handle and this requirement is not easily met.

In the foregoing chapters the need and importance
of military studios and museum of war materials have been fully discussed. From the discussions the need is felt for a planned museum programme on military studies and the establishment of regional and national museums of war materials. This job is not at all difficult because the required accommodation, materials, man-power etc. are all available in India. The running expenditure is also not too much and the museum itself can earn a major portion of its revenue. The only thing that is required, the museum authority should feel and bear in mind that in a free country, the museums have also the duty to make the people disciplined and educate in military science to create interest among them in the defence system of the country. Researches in this respect will surely bring forth more and more new methods to make museums popular in this field of knowledge. In any educational programme on military topics for the lay visitors, the importance of museum education through recreation should not be ignored and the government should pay immediate attention to this vital problem. The government should come forward to help the museum authorities to collect informations about museums of war materials existing in different military establishments within India and similar museums in other developed and developing countries.

The Government of India Advisory Board of Museums, Ministry of Education, must constitute within its fold a wing to study and advice the means to popularise this important
and interesting subject. If necessary a separate wing under the joint auspices of the Ministries of Education and Defence may be opened for the purpose.

A survey should be made about the institutions on military studies, organisations having adventurous activities and children centres to make a planned programme for extending museum facilities on military studies at least on a regional basis.

Compulsory military education for a specific period must be introduced in all schools and colleges for every able bodied boys and girls below the age of twenty-six.

The universities in India should introduce 'Military Studies' as a subject for post-graduate study and grant affiliation of the subject in different colleges under their control. These colleges must have suitable museums of war materials as required for study and practice.

The last but not the least suggestion is that the Museum Association of India and other regional Associations of Museums should hold conferences with the psychologists, teachers on military studies, NCC officers (at least two from each Directorate/State), Vice-Chancellors of all universities in India and heads of organisations having adventurous activities to draw up a general programme for the whole nation, enunciating the guiding principles in this aspect and extend their good offices to the Government of India so that immediate work may be started in this branch of knowledge.
The present thesis may be considered as the first working paper necessary to establish such Museums of Military Studies or museum of war and weapons and deals comprehensively all the aspects of a Military Museum including the history of weapons, forts, flags, army organisation etc. This thesis may also be considered as the first reference book dealing with museum of military studies of Indian arms and armours; war and weapons, army and organisation, forts and flags, ships and airships, badges and billets and etc.